

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of each claim in the present application is listed below.

Claims 1-4: (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) A raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage, comprising Aspartame as a sweetener and an amount of an emulsifier having an HLB value of 1 to 14 or/and an emulsifier having a molecular weight of 50 to 300 sufficient to eliminate formation of foam caused by the Aspartame.

6. (Previously Presented) A raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage, comprising Aspartame as a sweetener and an emulsifier having an HLB value of 3 to 11.

7. (Previously Presented) The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 5, wherein said emulsifier is a glycerine fatty acid ester.

8. (Previously Presented) The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 6, wherein said emulsifier is a glycerine fatty acid ester.

9. (Previously Presented) The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 7, wherein said glycerine fatty acid ester is at least one selected from the group consisting of glycerine monocaprylic acid ester, glycerine monocapric acid ester and diglycerine monocapric acid ester.

10. (Previously Presented) The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 8, wherein said glycerine fatty acid ester is at least one selected from the group consisting of glycerine monocaprylic acid ester, glycerine monocapric acid ester and diglycerine monocapric acid ester.

11. (Previously Presented) The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 5, wherein the emulsifier has a molecular weight of 100 to 270.

12. (Previously Presented) The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 6, wherein the emulsifier has a molecular weight of 100 to 270.

13. (Previously Presented) The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 5, which contains 0.1 to 20 ppm of the emulsifier.

14. (Previously Presented) The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 6, which contains 0.1 to 20 ppm of the emulsifier.

15. (Previously Presented) The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 5, which contains 1 to 10 ppm of the emulsifier.

16. (Previously Presented) The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 6, which contains 1 to 10 ppm of the emulsifier.

17. (Previously Presented) The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 5, further comprising cola flavoring.

18. (Previously Presented) The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 6, further comprising cola flavoring.

19. (Previously Presented) The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 5, further comprising cola base.

20. (Previously Presented) The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 6, further comprising cola base.

21. (Previously Presented) The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 5, further comprising cola essence.

22. (Previously Presented) The raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 6, further comprising cola essence.

23. (Previously Presented) A carbonated beverage which has been prepared by carbonating the raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 5.

24. (Previously Presented) A carbonated beverage which has been prepared by carbonating the raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 6.

25. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing the raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 5, comprising incorporating Aspartame and the emulsifier into a liquid.

26. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing the raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 6, comprising incorporating Aspartame and the emulsifier into a liquid.

27. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing a carbonated beverage, comprising incorporating the raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 5 into a carbonated liquid.

28. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing a carbonated beverage, comprising incorporating the raw material liquid for a carbonated beverage as set forth in Claim 6 into a carbonated liquid.

29. (Previously Presented) A carbonated beverage containing the raw material liquid of Claim 5.

30. (Previously Presented) A carbonated beverage containing the raw material liquid of Claim 6.